THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) The e-waste comprises of end of use electrical and electronic equipments such as refrigerators, air conditioners, hand held cellular phones, personal computers and such others. The Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests have notified the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules 1989 as amended in 2000 and 2003 which includes e-waste. The residues and wastes generated from the operations in electronic industry are considered as hazardous wastes and are listed at SI. No. 31 of Schedule 1 of these rules. Further, the export and import of e-waste is regulated under Schedule 3 of these rules as Electrical and Electronics Assemblies and are covered in Categories A1180 and B1110. The import of such wastes is only permitted for direct reuse and not for recycling or final disposal.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has formulated "Draft Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of E-Waste" for the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees of the Union Territories and the industries for handling e-waste. These draft Guidelines are available on CPCB's website *www.cpcb.nic.in,* for comments and suggestions. A Task Force has been constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for finalization of these guidelines.

Waste on hill stations

1887. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several hundred tonnes of plastic and other kind of waste is generated by hill stations in the country throughout the year particularly during tourists seasons; .

(b) whether any regular arrangements exist there for disposal of the waste;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) whether any campaign is carried out at these hill stations to guide and educate tourists for proper disposal of this waste; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Plastic waste form 5 to 10% of the total municipal solid waste generated in cities and towns of the country including hill stations. Hill stations in particular face increasing quantity of garbage and plastic waste generation during the tourist season. As per the manual of the Ministry of Urban Development, it is estimated that 1,00,000 tonnes of garbage is generated per day in the country.

Concerned local bodies of hill stations collect plastic waste alongwith municipal Solid wastes and dispose them off in landfills or send it for recycling. However, due to lack of facilities for complete collection of municipal solid waste, plastics are sometimes found littered on the hill stations.

(d) to (e) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the Plastic, Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999 amended 2000 and 2003 banning the manufacture, stocking, distribution and selling of carry bags made of virgin/recycle plastic which are below 18 to 12 inches in size and 20 microns in thickness. Some hill stations have also notified stricter norms to control use and disposal of non bio-degradable garbage in private and public places. The concerned local authorities from time to time undertake mass awareness campaign including involving local voluntary groups exhorting tourists to dispose solid waste in designated places/dustbins.

Objectives of WCCB

1888. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been notified;

(b) if so, the objectives of the Bureau; and

(c) how effectively the WCCB contains poaching in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S.REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Central Government *vide* notification dated 6th June, 2007 has set up the 'Wildlife Crime Control Bureau'. The Bureau is headed by the Director, Wildlife Preservation with headquarters at New Delhi. It has four Regional Offices *i.e.* New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata and three Sub-Regional Offices at Amritsar, Guwahati and Cochin. In addition one new Regional Office at Jabalapur has been created.

The objectives of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is to control wildlife crime in the country. It involves collecting and collating intelligence related to organized wildlife crime activities, disseminating the same to State and other enforcement agencies for immediate action so as to apprehend the criminals and to establish a Centralized Wildlife Crime Data Bank alongwith coordination of actions of various offices, State governments and other authorities.

Destruction of mangroves

1889. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale destruction of mangroves is taking place in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have contemplated any comprehensive strategy to protect the mangroves;

(d) whether Government have received proposal from the State of Kerala regarding conservation of mangrove eco-system in the State;

(e) if so, details thereof;

(f) whether necessary sanction has been given to the proposal;